

Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy – Consultation Feedback

From November 2018 to February 2019, we have been engaging with different audiences, gathering feedback on the priorities for the new Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy.

Firstly, we ran an online consultation via the Tower Hamlets website, which was open for all residents, who were encouraged to provide feedback on what the new strategy should be focusing on. The Community Engagement Sub-Group also ran a number of safeguarding awareness training sessions for the public, whereby they were also given the chance to provide their input into the strategy.

Secondly, conversations were held with various resident groups on the priorities of the new Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy. Groups who provided feedback include Real/Local Voices, Carers Centre, Older Peoples Reference Group and the Learning Disability Board.

Thirdly, a Safeguarding Adults Board workshop towards the end of January was held, whereby Board partners discussed what the strategy should be focusing on (given the feedback received from residents and user groups) and also explored the actions that needed to be undertaken by each agency. This workshop was extremely well attended.

Throughout discussions, it became apparent that there were reoccurring themes that residents, user groups and professionals wanted addressing in the new strategy. These have been summarised as follows:

- **Raising awareness of Safeguarding**
Many groups felt that residents of tower hamlets (and London in general) were unaware of safeguarding and how to identify safeguarding concerns and what they should do in such situations. The strategy addresses this by ensuring there is a focus on building on the safeguarding awareness sessions which have already taken place, via a publicity campaign that will include posters and leaflets. It also recognises that this needs to be a continued effort, and something that all partners and stakeholders need to take a lead on.
- **Partnership Working**
Almost of the respondents mentioned better relationships with partners as an issue which needs to be a key focus for the strategy. The strategy has a strong focus on partnership working, and has included various different interventions that will ensure that partners work better together to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place.
- **Training**
There was a strong focus on training, and ensuring that staff members were trained to a high level. There is a commitment in the strategy to ensure that training packages are provided to staff, and that they feel

empowered to have meaningful, engaging conversations with people when required.

- **Tackling emerging issues**

This was a concern for various resident groups, who mentioned the need to identify and tackle emerging safeguarding issues such as financial scams. The strategy seeks to tackle new forms of abuse and neglect at an early stage and has a strong focus on preventative work.

- **Transparency**

There was consensus amongst the feedback received that the Board needs to become more transparent in terms of the work they are doing to tackle abuse and neglect. By having a safeguarding Adults Board strategy, it serves the dual purpose of promoting the work programme of the SAB as well as improving the profile and transparency of the Board in general.